REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action of August 30, 2005, Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,676,684 ("Morley et al."); and Claims 1-3 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,786,896 ("Madhani et al.").

New claims 43-46 have been added. Claims 1-7, 12, 13, and 38-46 are now pending, of which claims 4-7, 12, 13, and 38-42 are withdrawn pursuant to the restriction requirement. Claims 1-3 and 43-46 are directed to Species 1 in Figures 1-3.

Claim 1 claims a plurality of actuation cables "which are actuatable to bend the flexible tube and the inner spring of the wrist member in pitch rotation and yaw rotation" and neither Morley et al. nor Madhani et al. teach such a flexible tube of a wrist member that is bent by actuation cables in pitch rotation and yaw rotation. In both Morley et al. and Madhani et al., pitch and yaw rotation of the wrist is performed by pulley/cable arrangements which cause rigid members to pivot about pivot connections or joints (see, e.g., FIGS. 9-13 of Morley et al. and FIG. 12 of Madhani et al).

Further, the Final Office Action fails to particularly identify the structures in Morley et al. and Madhani et al. which teach the flexible tube and inner spring as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over both Morley et al. and Madhani et al. for at least the foregoing reasons, as well as any other reasons previously argued.

Claims 2-3 and 43-46 are also believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over both Morley et al. and Madhani et al. since they depend from Claim 1, and as such, are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as stated in reference to Claim 1.

Further, Claim 2 recites that "the actuation cables are disposed inside a hollow interior of the inner spring," and neither Morley et al. nor Madhani et al. disclose such cables. In particular, although Morley et al. shows cables C1 and C2 (which provide yaw rotation) as passing through torsion tube 550, its cables C3 and C4 (which provide pitch rotation) are outside the torsion tube 550. See, Col. 9, lines 4-6, Col. 9, lines 48-52, and Col. 10, lines 47-48. Madhani et al., on the other hand, does not even teach an inner spring through which cables may be disposed. In Madhani et al., the inner spring is identified as being the inherent spring characteristic of the joint (Col. 24, lines 28-31), and there is no teaching Madhani et al. of actuation cables being disposed within hollows of the joints.

Because Claim 1 is generic and allowable, applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 4-7, 12, 13, and 38-42 be reinstated and allowed.

Claims 1-7, 12, 13, and 38-46 are now pending, of which claims 4-7, 12, 13, and 38-42 are withdrawn pursuant to the restriction requirement. Reconsideration of the rejected pending claims is respectfully requested for the reasons herein stated, and an early notice of their allowance earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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